



**United States Attorney's Office
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PRESS RELEASE

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WESTLAND WOMAN INDICTED ON FRAUD CHARGES

DETROIT - A Westland resident was arrested today on charges of mail fraud and fraud regarding Federal student aid, United States Attorney Barbara L. McQuade announced today.

Named in the Superseding Indictment unsealed today was Danyell Turner, 37, of Westland.

The indictment charges that from September 2005 until October 2009, Turner operated a scheme to defraud the U.S. Department of Education by obtaining student aid loans for herself and others, when the aid applicants were not qualified for funding. As alleged in the indictment, for a fee (typically \$300 in cash) Turner would register students to attend community colleges in the area and would obtain Federal student aid for them. In doing so, Turner falsely stated that the applicants possessed a GED certificate, which was required for aid, when in fact the applicants did not hold a GED.

Turner would complete the needed forms, register the students to attend classes and once the Department of Education sent money to the students, Turner would collect

approximately \$300 from each student as her fee. At various times, Turner attended Washtenaw Community College (Ann Arbor), Henry Ford Community College (Dearborn), Baker College (at Allen Park), and Wayne County Community College district (Detroit). In seeking Federal student aid for herself, Turner also made false statements about her GED, and obtained more than \$40,000 in aid. Turner registered students (for a fee) at Washtenaw, Henry Ford and Baker. In total, Turner obtained more than \$120,000 in federal aid (cash payments in the form of "refunds") for the participants in the fraud and obtained more than 230K in total federal financial aid.

If convicted as charged, the defendant could receive a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment on each count of mail fraud and a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment on the charge of Federal student aid fraud. Any sentence will be imposed under the United States Sentence Guidelines according to the nature of the offense and the criminal background, if any, of the defendant.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.